Production of raw silk

2418. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the largest producer of raw silk;

(b) what are the details of protection, if any, given to raw silk manufacturers; and

(c) what amount of foreign exchange was earned during the last three years, year-wise, from export of raw silk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to protect the interest of raw silk manufacturers, the Government of India have provided Working Capital to some of the major silk producing states in order to enable them to implement price support schemes for raw silk.

(c) Export of raw silk is 'on merits' and there has been no foreign exchange earning from exports of raw silk during the last three years. However, the foreign exchange from export of natural silk goods during the last three years is as under:—

Year	Rupees (Crores)
1982-83	82·85
1983-84	112·18
1984-85	129·05

Foreign exchange reserve

2419. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total foreign exchange reserve at present;

(b) what is the total foreign exchange remitted by the non-resident Indians during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what incentives Government are giving to the non-resident Indians to remit their earnings to India in foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold & Special Drawing Rights) stood at Rs. 6497.31 crores on 9th August, 1985.

(b) No precise information about remittances received exclusively from Non-Resident Indians abroad is available since details of remittances of Rs. 10,000/- and below are not required to be reported to the Reserve Bank of India by the Authorised Dealers under the current rules. Accruals to the country's Foreign Exchange Reserves result from all foreign transactions including remittances from Indians abroad.

(c) Facilities allowed to non-resident Indians for remitting funds to India are enumerated in the Statement below.

Statement

Facilities allowed to the Non-resident Indians for remitting funds into India

(1) Non-resident Indians can invest in the Security of the Central or State Government (other than bearer securities), National Plan/Savings Certificates and Units of the Unit Trust of India. When investment is made by remittances in foreign exchange, sale proceeds will be allowed to be repatriated. An additional interest of 1 per cent is available on the 6 years National Savings Certificate if these are subscribed for in foreign exchange.

(2) They can invest in shares quoted in the stock exchange upto 1 per cent of the paid up capital of the company Sale proceeds of share is allowed to be repatriated after payment of taxes due.

(3) They can subscribe upto 40 per cent in the new issues of new/existing companies engaged in industrial activity. This facility carries repatriation rights.

(4) They may also invest with repatriation rights upto 74 per cent of the equity capital with full repatriation rights for establishing industries listed in Appendix-I of the Industrial Policy and export oriented units.

(5) They may invest without repatriation rights in any area of activity-other than commercial construction and agricultural land without any limit and such investment will be on par with resident investment.

(6) Tests of 'residence' in India laid down for taxation purposes have been modified.

(7) With a view to promote investment and remittances by Non-resident Indian, the Government have set up a Special Cell in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs.

(8) Indians Investment Centre's offices abroad as also Missions abroad and Branches of Nationalised Banks abroad provide publicity, etc. to Non-resident Indians to facilitate remittances.

(9) Interest rates on new deposits of maturities of one year and above held in Non-Resident (External) Accounts carry interest of 2 per cent above rates permissible on local deposits of comparable maturities. Gifts made in India in these external accounts are free from Gift Tax.

Trade with Gulf countries

2420. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of trade being done with Gulf countries;

(b) what are the items which are exported to and imported from Gulf countries;

(c) what was the amount involved in export and import with the Gulf countries during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what steps are being taken to boost our trade with the Gulf countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (c) Details of India's trade with Gulf countries is given in the Statement annexed.

(b) Principal exports from India to the Gulf countries are:

(1) Fruits & Vegetables

(2) Meat

(3) Rice

(4) Tea

(5) Spices

(6) Engineering goods

(7) Transport Equipment

(8) Textiles

(9) Chemicals

(10) Gold jewellery

(11) Tobacco

(12) Jute bags

Principal imports into India from the Gulf countries:

(1) Crude Oil

(2) Fertilizers

(3) Sulphur

(4) Ammonia

(5) Dates

(6) Copper waste.

(d) Among the various measure taken to improve our trade with Gulf countries the following are the more important ones:

1. A new export promotion and marketing strategy for Indian goods has